

REMARKS

Applicants and the undersigned reviewed the Office Action carefully before preparing this response. In conjunction with the accompanying Request for Continued Examination, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants appreciate the withdrawal of numerous prior art references and the corresponding rejections, together with the indication of allowable subject matter. The objection to claim 26 is hereby addressed, with a change in dependency.

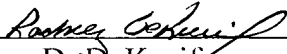
Claims 1-5, 14, 15 and 18 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Dubertret, for reasons previously of record. The Examiner's concern about facts and explanation of the evidence is well-taken, and Applicants' revised declarations present facts showing completion of the claimed invention before the effective date of the Dubertret reference. More particularly, the invention recited in claims 1-5 was conceived and reduced to practice prior to the effective date of the Dubertret reference, and a factual basis therefor is provided in paragraphs 4(a)-(d) of the respective declarations, with reference to the evidence of Exhibit A. Likewise, the invention recited in claims 14, 15 and 18 was conceived and reduced to practice prior to the effective date of the Dubertret reference, and a factual basis therefor is provided in paragraphs 5(a)-(b) of the respective declarations, with reference to the evidence of Exhibit A. Accordingly, there is no anticipation, the rejection should be withdrawn, with the subject claims allowed to proceed toward issue.

Again, Applicants appreciate the prior indication of allowable subject matter, in light of the foregoing, this application is now believed to be in condition for full allowance. Consistent therewith, favorable action is respectfully requested. The

Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone should any issue remain.

Thank you for your help and consideration.

Respectfully submitted:



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